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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Millions Observe Silence for London Victims - Hurriyet
London Attacks' Code Name: Burning Cross - Vatan
US Takes Step Forward for `TRNC' - HO-Tercuman
British Police Seek Egyptian Mastermind of London Attacks -
Vatan
France, UK, Germany Discuss Closer Monitoring of Mosques -
Milliyet
Attacks Against Muslims Continue in Britain - Aksam
Britain Will Deport Religious `Hatemongers' - Sabah
Support for bin-Ladin Declines in Muslim Countries - HO-
Tercuman

OPINION MAKERS

Erdogan Denounces BBC, Reuters on Terror Reporting -
Cumhuriyet
Europe Unites for London Victims - Zaman
US Gives Turkish Cypriots 10 Million USD - Yeni Safak
Papadopoulos Proposes Tough Changes to Annan Plan - Radikal
Prince Charles: Islam Not the Cause of Terrorism - Yeni
Safak
Al-Qaeda Denies Responsibility for Killing Children in
Baghdad - Cumhuriyet
US Issues `Routine' Warning to Syria - Yeni Safak
Captive Given `Queer' Treatment at Gitmo - Radikal

BRIEFING

Views Same, Tactics Different Between US-Turkey: On
Thursday, a high-level official of the US Administration
told the news broadcaster NTV that although the US and
Turkey share the same goals about Syria, there is some
disagreement concerning the tactics. According to the US
Administration, the disagreement between President Bush and
Prime Minister Erdogan on the Syria issue surfaced during
the June 8 meeting at the White House. The US official said
the United States and Turkey share the goals that Damascus
will stop supporting terrorism, cease destabilization
efforts in Iraq and Lebanon, and institute democracy.
`There are, however, differences between Turkey and the
United States with regard to tactics,' the official said.
`Our view is that if Syria wants to see an end to the
isolation imposed by the international community, it must
change its negative attitude.' Erdogan had said during his
Washington meetings that Syria should not be isolated from
the international community, NTV reported.

General Myers on the PKK: Dailies report that US Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Richard Myers,
responded to a question regarding a possible Turkish
military cross-border operation into northern Iraq in
pursuit of outlawed PKK militants. `I think the difference
now is that they're dealing with a sovereign Iraqi
government,' General Myers said, adding that Iraq would have
`a lot to say' about any Turkish cross-border operations
into its territory. He noted that this issue is being
worked on with Turkey and Iraq. Myers noted that the PKK
has stepped up its activities in Turkey recently, and that
it has killed Turkish nationals inside Turkey. `We are
trying to work with Turkey on the issue,' General Myers
said. `It's a matter of having the time and the resources
to get to some of these problems,' General Myers said. `But
such killings are certainly not acceptable and, in my view,
will eventually be eliminated.'

US Declines to Take Action Against PKK: Commentaries in
"Hurriyet" and "Radikal" today claim that Washington has
promised Ankara to provide intelligence on the PKK, but
ruled out any US military operation against PKK camps in the
Kandil Mountains in northern Iraq. US officials say that,
given the difficult security situation in the rest of Iraq,

US forces do not have the capacity to shift troops to the north at the moment. The commentaries say that Ankara has asked the US at least to arrest and hand over to Turkey PKK leaders in the region such as Murat Karayilan and Cemil Bayik, both of whom are being sought and are listed on an Interpol 'red list.' The Turks are also seeking help in cutting off funds for the terror organization coming from Europe. The articles estimate the number of PKK militants in the Kandil Mountains at about 5,000, and claim that at least 700 of them have infiltrated into Turkey in recent months. Another column in "Hurriyet" ties the increase in PKK actions in southeast Turkey to US plans to liquidate terror camps in the Kandil Mountains. Both Americans and President Talabani want to remove PKK terrorists from Kandil, the column speculates, and warns the Turkish government against intensified attacks coming from the outlawed organization.

Ankara Seeks Britain's Support in Fighting PKK Terrorism: A news-commentary in "Cumhuriyet" claims that the US has dismissed Turkey's request for cooperation in the fight against the PKK, saying that it was busy fighting against 'global terrorism.' Ankara is annoyed that the US has taken no measures to secure the border between Turkey and Iraq against infiltrations by PKK militants. "Cumhuriyet" claims that Ankara is hoping that London will now better understand Turkey's concerns following last week's bombings. Turkey will reportedly ask Britain to put pressure on Washington to fight against PKK terrorism.. Foreign Minister Gul discussed the issue with British officials during his recent visit to London, "Cumhuriyet" writes, adding that Turkish efforts to enhance cooperation with Britain on this issue will continue.

Turkish Leaders Observe Silence for London Terror Victims: Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday denounced the BBC and Reuters for not describing the armed separatist PKK as a terrorist group, instead characterizing them as a 'militia.' Speaking to the Ankara Chamber of Industry after observing a two-minute silence for the victims of last week's bomb attacks in London, Erdogan warned against 'double standards' in tackling terrorism in Turkey and in Britain, and called for the 'reinforcement' of the spirit of solidarity. 'Turkey has lost about 40,000 of its nationals in terrorist killings,' Erdogan said. He urged global media to show an impartial stance regarding the PKK. 'If this mentality continues, they should know that the terror that strikes Turkey today will strike them tomorrow, and will cause them pain,' Erdogan said. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul noted that 'yesterday 24 innocent children died in similar attacks in Iraq. These incidents showed once again to the entire world how violent terrorism can be.' 'TRNC President' Mehmet Ali Talat and the 'TRNC Parliament' also observed the two minutes of silence in north Cyprus.

Assad Won't Spend Holiday in Turkey: "Milliyet" claims that Syrian President Bashar Assad has changed his plans for spending his holiday in Turkey. The Turkish press had earlier reported that Assad would come to Turkey on a working visit, prompting a denial from the Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA). The Prime Ministry spokesman subsequently announced that Assad was coming to Turkey for a private visit in late July. According to today's papers, that visit will be postponed or canceled. "Milliyet" also speculates that US First Lady Laura Bush refused to meet PM Erdogan's wife Emine during a state visit by the Turkish PM to the US because of US displeasure that Mrs. Erdogan had held meetings in Damascus. US uneasiness over the rapprochement between Turkey and Syria cast a shadow on Erdogan's official visit to the United States last month, the paper notes.

ITF Complains About Kurds, Kirkuk Management: The Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF) Washington representative Orhan Ketene told a press gathering in Washington that despite guarantees from the US, American forces in the region have given silent consent to the occupation of all major towns including Kirkuk and Mosul in northern Iraq by the Kurdish militia, papers report. Meanwhile, the ITF Turkey office released a statement yesterday claiming that all US military operations conducted against Turkmen cities 'went beyond' the goal of doing away with the insurgents. The ITF also blamed the insurgents for attempting to use the Turkmen to further their interests. The ITF said that Kirkuk has not been administered well since the establishment of the new government in Iraq, and stressed that the Turkmen want to help manage Kirkuk.

USAID Helps Turkish Cyprus to Improve Business Climate: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is to give the Turkish Cypriots 10 million USD to help improve business practices and increase the quality of the banking sector over the next three years. The overriding goal of the project is to help create a climate that will support the reunification of the island, "Zaman" reports. The money is part of an overall 30.5 million USD assistance package for the Turkish Cypriots approved following the

April 2004 referendum. Papers also report that "Improtex Travel" will begin direct flights from Baku to Ercan Airport in northern Cyprus every Sunday as of July 31.

Pew: Impact of Islam Strengthening in Turkey: A survey conducted by Pew Global Research Foundation shows that 47 percent of Turks believe that the impact of Islam has increased in Turkey. Half of the respondents regard the increase as a negative development. According to the survey conducted among 1,000 Turks, 68 percent support European membership. 64 percent want the ban on wearing Islamic headgear in schools to be removed. Only 29 percent support the headscarf ban. 48 percent of Turks believe that democracy can work in Turkey -- a relatively low ratio compared to other Islamic countries. The survey, conducted in 16 countries including the US, Canada, Turkey, Jordan, Morocco, Germany and France, shows that support for Osama bin-Ladin among youth in Islamic countries is declining. It also shows that bin-Ladin still enjoys almost 50 percent of popular support in Islamic countries other than Turkey.

UN 'Alliance of Civilizations': UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has appointed PM Erdogan to represent Muslims and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero to represent Christians in the UN initiative called the 'Alliance of Civilizations,' a campaign that aims to bring the Muslim and Christian worlds together, Turkish papers report. 'The Alliance of Civilizations is intended as a coalition against extremists, a movement to advance mutual respect for religious beliefs and traditions, and as a reaffirmation of humankind's increasing interdependence in all areas, from the environment to health, from economic and social development to peace and security,' Annan's spokesman said in a statement yesterday. The spokesman said the governments of Turkey and Spain would support the campaign as co-sponsors, and added that several other governments and organizations have expressed interest in joining them.

Turkey, Iran to Ease Customs Controls on Goods: Iran's state-controlled news agency IRNA reported Thursday that Iran and Turkey have agreed to ease border checks on the transit of goods in an effort to boost border trade. An Iranian Ministry of Commerce delegation, in Ankara on an official visit, told a meeting of the Iran-Turkey joint border committee that the two sides will ease regulations that hinder imports and exports. A delegation member said that the border trade between Iran and Turkey amounts to about 15 million annually.

US Report Claims Mistreatment of Inmates at Gitmo: A military commission report on claims of mistreatment at Guantanamo Bay detention acknowledged that one inmate, Mohammed al-Kahtani, was forced during his interrogations to wear a bra and panties on his head, Turkish papers report. During questioning that lasted 20 hours per day, Kahtani was humiliated and forced to dance with male interrogators. Kahtani is alleged to be the '20th hijacker,' who missed the plane that crashed in the Pennsylvania countryside while preparing to attack another target in the US on September 11.

Most PKK Landmines Made In Italy: 60 percent of the landmines used by the outlawed PKK against Turkish security forces in the southeast were made in Italy, "Vatan" reports. The PKK keeps 5,500 armed terrorists at 17 camps in the Kandil Mountains in northern Iraq, the report claims.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Terrorism

"Concerns About Terrorist Activities"

Mustafa Balbay commented in the leftist-nationalist "Cumhuriyet" (7/15): "Yesterday, people all over in Europe stood in silence for two minutes to pay respects to the victims of the London bombings. We criticize every single terrorist action anywhere in the world, including London, Baghdat, Istanbul, New York, and Kabul, and offer our respects to all the victims before stressing our concerns. Unfortunately, in recent times the concept of terrorism has become firmly established on the world's agenda. Each country is searching for measures to protect itself. Recently, France announced that it has suspended participation in the Schengen Agreement. If France exercises this right to protect itself, then what about other EU countries? Since they all have terrorism problems, couldn't the EU find a joint solution to this problem? But France is demonstrating a disturbing selfishness in taking its own precautions. Britain is still in shock after the terrorist attacks, and is also planning to apply new measures. One of those measures is rather worrying. The UK is urging all Muslims in the country not to shelter radical Islamists, and to cooperate with the authorities to root out radical groups. This means the country will be divided into 'us' and 'them,' and all Muslims will be held responsible for the terrorists among them. This is a very wrong kind of discrimination. The US, which considers the fight against terrorism as its primary responsibility, recently commented

about terrorism activities in Turkey, saying that `Turkey has the right to conduct operations against terrorists within its territory.' This means the US is `allowing' Turkey to protect its own citizens! The US adds that operations can continue `as long as there are no large-scale human rights violations.' This reminds us of the advice the US administration gave to the PKK some years ago. They advised the PKK to return to Turkey, and pledged not to allow Turkey to conduct operations in areas where they settled. The worst part of all this is that the Turkish government is either not aware of these developments, or doesn't have the will to intervene."

"Terror in Turkey"

Fuat Bol wrote in the conservative "Turkiye" (7/15):

"Turkey has been battling terrorism for almost a quarter of a century. We have lost 30,000 lives and many resources to terrorism. Today, militants from the terrorist organizations are entering Turkey from Northern Iraq and conducting terrorist activities in Turkey. Turkey has lost 114 soldiers in terrorist actions within the past year. As long as the terrorist swamp remains in Northern Iraq, we will not have peace in Turkey. Syria has no value for Turkey today, because it is on the US list of countries that shelter terrorists and contribute to instability in Iraq and Palestine. Turkey lost its historic chance to eliminate terrorism when it rejected the US request to deploy troops to Iraq through Turkey. Turkey also lost the trust of the United States, to the point where the US has preferred to collaborate with Kurdish groups in Northern Iraq rather than with Turkey, a 50-year NATO ally. If Turkey had won the approval of Parliament for the US request, we would be in control of Northern Iraq, and would never allow terrorists to enter Turkey from there. Still, it is never too late to reverse the damage. The first and main issue we have to bring to the agenda with the US and the Iraqi Administration is the terrorist organization in Northern Iraq and its activities."

MCELDOWNEY